



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 301**

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5623

*House of Representatives, March 31, 2008*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-808 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2008*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide a special  
5 needs benefit for emergency housing to any recipient of payments  
6 under the temporary family assistance program and the optional state  
7 supplementation program who cannot remain in permanent housing  
8 because (1) a judgment has been entered against the recipient in a  
9 summary process action instituted pursuant to chapter 832, provided  
10 the action was not based on criminal activity, or a judgment has been  
11 entered against the recipient in a foreclosure action pursuant to  
12 chapter 846; [and the time limited for redemption has passed;] (2) the  
13 recipient has left to escape domestic violence; (3) a catastrophic event,  
14 such as a fire or flood, has made the permanent housing uninhabitable

15 or the recipient has been ordered to vacate the housing by a local code  
16 enforcement official; (4) the recipient shares an apartment with a  
17 primary tenant who is being evicted or is engaged in criminal activity;  
18 (5) the recipient was illegally locked out by a landlord and has filed a  
19 police complaint concerning such lockout; (6) the recipient has been  
20 living with a tenant who received a preliminary notice under section  
21 47a-15 or a notice to quit because of termination of a rental agreement  
22 for lapse of time; or (7) the family has relocated because a child in the  
23 family has been found to have a level of lead in the blood equal to or  
24 greater than twenty micrograms per deciliter of blood or any other  
25 abnormal body burden of lead and the local director of health has  
26 determined, after an epidemiological investigation pursuant to section  
27 19a-111, that the source of the lead poisoning was the residential unit  
28 in which the family resided. A person shall be eligible for the benefit  
29 under this section provided application is made to the commissioner  
30 within forty-five days of the loss of permanent housing by the  
31 recipient. On and after September 4, 1991, the benefit shall be limited  
32 to not more than one occurrence per calendar year and not more than  
33 sixty days per occurrence, except that any family receiving the benefit  
34 under this section pursuant to subdivision (7) with a child undergoing  
35 chelation treatment may receive the benefit for more than one  
36 occurrence provided the total number of days the benefit is received by  
37 the family for all occurrences is not more than eighty days in any  
38 calendar year. Any person receiving a benefit under this section shall  
39 agree to reside in any housing which was constructed, renovated or  
40 rehabilitated with state or federal financial assistance.  
41 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any family receiving  
42 the benefit under this section pursuant to subdivision (7) shall not be  
43 required to reside in any housing in which the paint contains a toxic  
44 level of lead as defined by the Commissioner of Public Health in  
45 regulations adopted pursuant to section 19a-111. Under the temporary  
46 family assistance program, any person not eligible for the benefit  
47 under this section shall be referred to the Department of Social  
48 Services' program for emergency shelter services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
---

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	17b-808(a)
-----------	------------------------	------------

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

---

***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

This bill expedites eligibility for certain emergency housing benefits under the Department of Social Services. Although the changes in the bill allow access to services sooner in the foreclosure process, it is not expected to increase the overall utilization of the program. Therefore, no fiscal impact is anticipated.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

---

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5623*****AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows recipients of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) or State Supplemental benefits who are foreclosure defendants to be eligible for Department of Social Service (DSS) emergency housing benefits at the time a foreclosure judgment is entered, rather than when the property owner's right to redeem has expired.

Currently, when a strict foreclosure judgment is entered, the court sets a "law date" by which the property owner must make full payment on the property or lose ownership. The time for redemption of the property does not expire until the end of the foreclosure process, which may limit a person's ability to secure emergency housing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

**BACKGROUND*****Special Needs Benefit for Emergency Housing***

By law, DSS is required to provide a special needs benefit for emergency housing to recipients of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) or State Supplemental benefits if they lose their permanent housing under any of the following conditions:

1. the family is being evicted for non-criminal reasons;
2. the family's home is being foreclosed and the time limit for redemption has passed;
3. the family has left the current housing situation to avoid

domestic violence;

4. local health officials have told the family it must move because a child in the family has unacceptable lead levels in his blood and the residence is the source of the lead;
5. a catastrophic event makes the residence uninhabitable;
6. the family has been ordered to vacate by a local housing code official;
7. the family has left a shared living arrangement where the primary tenant is in the process of being evicted, has received a preliminary eviction notice, has received a notice to quit for terminating a lease, or is engaged in criminal activity; or
8. the family was illegally locked out of the residence and has filed a complaint with the police.

The special needs benefit consists of payments for emergency housing (e.g., shelters) and is available only once during a calendar year and is paid for up to 60 days during that occurrence. Applications must be submitted to DSS within 45 days of when permanent housing was lost. In addition to the basic benefit, individuals may be eligible for supplemental benefits, including security deposits, replacement clothing, and moving expenses.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    19    Nay   0    (03/11/2008)